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Harvest the Wind: America's Journey to Jobs, Energy Independence, and Climate Stability

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need to read this book. They can learn about the trials and tribulations that come with dealing with midwestern weather, maintaining farm equipment, managing soil fertility, addressing insect infestations, marketing, getting up at 3:00 a.m. during harvest, and the art of timing—when to plant and when to pick to get the best yields and the best flavor. They can learn about the highly intimate soil and plant knowledge organic farming requires, as well as business strategies, government regulations, and the politics of organic farming that make for organic farming success. Iowa farmers thinking of going organic will appreciate this book. Iowa consumers will wish more of them would.

Harvest the Wind: America's Journey to Jobs, Energy Independence, and Climate Stability, by Philip Warburg. Boston: Beacon Press, 2012. xii, 244 pp. Illustration, tables, notes, bibliography, index. \$27.95 cloth.

Reviewer Angie Gumm is an adjunct lecturer at Wichita State University. She is the author of *Waste, Energy, and the Crisis of Confidence: The American People and the History of Resource Recovery, 1965–2001* (forthcoming).

Philip Warburg's *Harvest the Wind* is an argument for whole-heartedly pursuing wind energy in the United States. The environmental lawyer and advocate briefly lays out the history of the modern wind industry, which had its first "big wave" in the United States in the 1980s, about a decade after it emerged in Denmark, the world's wind energy leader. In both countries wind went from a type of soft-energy-appropriate technology to being as high-tech as any other big utility. Unlike Denmark—and now China—the U.S. has not had given wind power consistent governmental support, but in recent years wind has moved to the forefront of green energy technologies. Warburg explores a wide range of issues, including how the U.S. industry compares with the rest of the world; how midwestern communities like Newton, Iowa, and community colleges like Iowa Lakes are on the cutting edge of this burgeoning industry; how turbines are transported and assembled; and what obstacles are impeding the industry's growth.

Warburg has studied the issue well and provides an excellent introduction to wind. Readers used to more scholarly books, however, should keep in mind the author's agenda. He presents two sides of several issues, but the objections of wind opponents are sometimes brushed aside too easily. He repeatedly shows how there is more than enough wind power to meet the country's projected energy needs. However, when residents object to turbines in Kansas's Flint Hills, he incorrectly implies that the permanent environmental impacts of the construction (the service roads and concrete slabs) are no worse than

the area's annual prairie fires (142; compare Julie Courtwright's *Prairie Fire: A Great Plains History*). Considering that much of the wind energy produced goes to faraway states, Warburg never explains why such a beautiful area needs to be a wind farm site. Overall, though, the author gets across his point that wind power is an exciting field that can help the environment by drastically reducing carbon emissions and assist rural people by providing jobs and profits from a cutting-edge, sustainable industry.